R.N. Plourde
39520

WILLIAM L. CATTO, P.E.
Public Health Director

CAYUGA COUNTY
HEALTH DEPARTMENT

October 24, 1995

Dear Retailer:

As you know, all tobacco contains nicotine. Nicotine is a strongly addictive agent causing an addiction to tobacco products such as cigarettes and chew tobacco.

What you may not be aware of is that more and more youth are becoming addicted to tobacco before the age of 18, the age at which tobacco can be legally sold! Tobacco use is on the rise among underaged youth nationwide and here in Cayuga County. This fact is good news to the tobacco companies because they know that only about 20% of all tobacco users begin after the age of 18! If kids can be prevented from becoming tobacco users prior to age 18, it is highly unlikely that they will choose to become addicted to this deadly product as young adults.

Despite your and our best efforts to prevent the sale of tobacco products to underaged minors, youth still are able to obtain cigarettes, snuff, and other chew tobacco products. A study by Dr. Michael Caldwell, Public Health Director, Dutchess County, showed that in stores with self-service tobacco stands (floor and counter top displays not requiring employee intervention to obtain the tobacco product), tobacco theft was twice as high as in stores without public access tobacco stands.

We would like your assistance in eliminating underaged youth access to your tobacco products. The Cayuga County Board of Health unanimously passed a county-wide resolution asking for voluntary compliance with a restriction on public access to self-service tobacco stands and counter top displays. The resolution is attached for your review.

Remember, tobacco use (smoking or chewing) can and often does lead to chronic illnesses and death. Each year over 450,000 people die of tobacco use related diseases including various cancers, heart diseases, and strokes.

You can make a difference here in Cayuga County by helping implement the Board of Health request. Thank you for your efforts to promote public health.

Sincerely,

William L. Catto, P.E., Director
Cayuga County Health Department

51862 0960

160 GENESEE STREET, P.O. BOX 219, AUBURN, NEW YORK 13021, TELEPHONE (315) 253-1301

Source: https://www.industrydocuments.ucsf.edu/docs/rjpm0000